

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 25, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Wednesday, April 25, 1877 My dear Alec:

I have not heard from you today and suppose you have been too busy and tired to write. Never mind, I never want you to write when you are tired and busy, and I shall see you again very soon.

Mamma had a telegram from Papa asking her to come on to Washington tonight, she may go or may wait until tomorrow. I expect to leave for New Haven tomorrow, but may wait until Friday. I would just as soon go tomorrow if Mamma leaves tonight.

They are trying to frighten me by accounts of the customs of Cousin Evelyn's household. They say breakfast is ready at seven and I must be down punctually to pour out coffee for Mr. Salisbury for his wife never comes to breakfast. How would you like to have me serve you so? I am afraid you will not prove as submissive a husband as Mr. Salisbury is reported to be. I don't want you to be anyway.

I don't know if Mamma wants me to tell you or not, but I think it but fair to warn you that she has been buying Chopin's hardest music for you and expects you to play it when you come here next time. You had better practice beforehand, she says she will think you very smart if you can manage it.

Little Ellis here for the day, shouts back "I don't think he is smart," But I do.

Mamma is troubled, she is afraid I don't take proper notice in my letters to you of all you tell me about your inventions and plans for 2 your lectures. I am sorry if you think so too, for I have been really interested and want you to know you have my full sympathy in all

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you are doing. I want to know about your electric kal have you decided to exhibit it now instead of reserving it for a future occasion. Of course there is danger of other people's inventing it before that. I should think your programme was brilliant enough without it, still I should think it would be well to make as brilliant a beginning as possible. I do not know all the pros and cons, and am sure you know best what to do about it. It will go into all the papers, and when you make your lecturing tour, if you do so, will not the people expect something new?

Mamma wants me to tell you from her that she thinks that the first lecture will be a very important one, and she is glad you have undertaken to lecture on that subject, the relation of your discoveries to others. She wants you to bring the differences out clearly, but at the same time be as careful as you were in your preliminary statement not to bring the first person singular forward, any more than you can help.

She sends her love to you and bids me say she is going to Washington tomorrow. I shall probably leave tomorrow at three arriving sometime in the afternoon and shall expect you Friday when I see you.

I have been out shopping all the morning without success and am tired out, so pray excuse this, I must write to Berta and tell her Mamma will be in Cambridge the first of May.

With much love, au revoir Mabel